(b) whether the Ministry of Agriculture has accepted the proposal;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay in taking decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise, Sir.

(d) The proposal to transfer assets of National Institute of Sugarcane and Sugar Technology (NISST), Mau was received from the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. The ICAR has constituted a Committee to examine the infrastructure at NISST, Mau. The Committee has submitted the report which is under examination. However, the proposal will require approval of Planning Commission, Govt. of India.

Restoring Soil Fertility in Andhra Pradesh

2743. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in many areas of Andhra Pradesh, intensive cropping with high inputs and high yielding varieties have resulted in steep decline in soil fertility;

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to restore fertility of the soil in these areas of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) There is slight decline in soil fertility due to intensive cropping with high inputs and high yielding varieties as per the fertility index available with the Government.

(b) The district-wise comparative statement of fertility index of Nitrogen, Phosphorous and Potassium for the year 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01, is given in the Statement (*see* below).

(c) In order to restore soil fertility, a scheme of Balanced and Integrated Use of Nutrient is being implemented in the State of Andhra Pradesh. The components of the scheme are as under:—

i. Distribution of green manure seeds at subsidized rates to farmers.

ii. Vermi-compost is supplied free of cost to one village in each mandal.

iii. Bio-fertilisers like Rhyzobium, Azotabector, Azospirillum and Phosphorous solubalizing Bacteria are supplied to farmers on subsidised rates.

iv. In order to correct soil alkalinity, assistance is provided for the transport of gypsum.

v. The cooperative and private sectors are also being encouraged by providing assistance for establishing soil-testing laboratories.

Statement

Comparative Statement of Fertility Index of Nitrogen, Phosphorous and Potassium in Andhra Pradesh from 1998-1999 to 2000-2001

S.No	District	Nitrogen			Phosphorous			Potassium		
		1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01
1	Srikakulam	1.93	1.75	1.96	1.45	1.41	1.49	2.14	1.97	1.99
2	Vizianagaram	1.44	1.54	1.55	1.31	1.43	1.60	2.27	2.18	2.14
3	Visakhapatnam	1.32	1.22	1.57	1.28	1.63	1.79	2.20	2.31	2.46
4	East Godawari	2.03	1.78	1.45	1.57	1.62	1.70	2.74	2.96	1.70
5	West Godawari	1.73	2.56	1.46	1.55	1.40	1.40	2.73	2.94	2.56
6	Krishna	1.50	1.48	1.60	1.59	2.20	1.54	2.61	2.58	2.51
7	Guntur	1.23	1.27	1.51	1.37	1.49	1.66	2.96	2.61	2.83
8	Prakasham	1.19	1.33	1.31	1.22	1.42	1.39	2.86	2.59	2.55
9	Nellore	1.35	1.41	1.72	1.25	1.53	1.54	2.34	2.60	2.34
10	Chittoor	1.01	1.01	1.14	1.38	1.30	1.38	2.20	2.36	2.17
11	Cuddapah	1.18	1.25	1.24	1.04	1.12	1.22	2.81	2.73	2.85
12	Kurnool	1.22	1.16	1.29	1.13	1.18	1.35	2.57	2.67	2.67
13	Ananthapur	1.27	1.19	1.69	1.48	2.02	1.30	2.79	2.71	2.69
14	Mahaboobnagar	1.32	1.62	1.60	1.43	1.74	1.37	2.32	2.24	2.49
15	Nalgonda	2.02	1.90	1.45	1.80	2.25	1.68	2.53	2.44	2.42
16	Khammam	1.69	1.75	1.56	1.60	1.52	1.51	2.33	2.31	2.46
17	Warangal	1.14	1.27	1.24	2.02	1.84	1.98	1.94	2.22	2.06
18	Karimnagar	1.58	1.38	1.93	2.04	2.14	1.55	2.69	2.33	2.60
19	Adilabad	1.30	1.61	1.56	1.06	1.08	1.15	1.89	2.87	2.76
20	Nizamabad	1.02	1.02	1.03	1.04	1.19	1.55	2.71	2.22	2.12
21	Medak	1.56	2.32	1.72	1.04	1.00	1.36	2.73	2.69	2.70
22	Rangareddy	1.34	1.35	1.98	2.18	1.99	1.75	2.59	2.57	2.27

NOTE: Fertility Index Rating : 0 to 1.66 as Low; 1.67 to 2.33 as Medium; and more than 2.33 as High

Drought in A.P.

2744. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has prepared an action plan for drought-hit districts to fully utilise the Centrally sponsored Food for Work Programme;